Import of agricultural products from Myanmar

188. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that the Indo-Myanmar Trade Treaty is not strictly followed between the two countries;

(b) whether Government have any plan to purchase agricultural products specially rice which is good quality and cheaper in price also; and

(c) if so, by when it will be started; and, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) The bilateral trade between India and Myanmar through the border points of Moreh and Tamu is taking place smoothly as per the Border Trade Agreement (BTA).

(b) and (c) The Government may from time to time approve proposals for import of rice and other agricultural products from various countries including Myanmar. However, physical procurement depends upon domestic requirements, commercial considerations, logistical feasibility and availability of infrastructural facilities.

Export growth rate

189. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item "Get ready for single-digit export growth rate this year" which appeared in the Business Standard dated the 7th June, 2001;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the details of steps taken/are proposed to be taken to address the problems mentioned in the newsitem so that the export growth does not take a back seat during the current fiscal?